

## Pastor's Note: January 26, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Celebrating Catholic Schools Week!

As a product of both Catholic and public education, I am very grateful for the sacrifices my parents made for me and my two sisters so we could get a great Catholic elementary education. I graduated from St. Norbert Elementary School in Overbrook in 1984 and Carrick High School in 1988.

This weekend at the 11 am Mass we kick off Catholic Schools Week. There are many wonderful options for schools in our area. St. Bede and Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy offer a quality Catholic education in a safe and loving environment with a 3 and 4 year old pre-school program and Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. We have two great "neighborhood schools" in the Point Breeze and Wilkinsburg Communities. Please call 412.661.9425 at St. Bede or 412.242.3515 at Sister Thea Bowman for more information or for a tour of the school.

This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and all three readings focus on discipleship. Last year, Pope Francis declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time to be set aside for "Sunday of the Word of God."

In the first reading from Isaiah, we read how a prophet looks forward to the day when the light of God will shine forth in the darkness. In the second reading from Paul to the Corinthians, we read how Paul urges the Lord's faithful people to strive for unity in what they say and do. In the Gospel of Matthew we read how Jesus calls his disciples to assist in his ministry, preaching the gospel and healing the sick. This gospel passage focuses on the beginning of Jesus' ministry, as he moves from Nazareth, where he grew up, to the City of Capernaum on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. By God's grace we too can respond with a complete gift of self and follow him.

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**Blessing of Throats** In honor of the *Feast of St. Blaise*, which is on Monday, February 3, we will have the "Blessing of Throats" after each Mass next weekend. All are invited to have their throats blessed.

**Collaborative Youth Ministry Study Group** One of the key goals Pastoral Council has been discussing the last several months is focusing on getting our youth more involved in our parish. I am pleased to announce that we are forming a *Collaborative Youth Ministry Study Group* with members of our neighboring grouping Sacred Heart/St. Raphael. If you are interested in learning more about this study group, please contact Melissa Viator at the parish office at 412.661.7222 or [viatormelissa@gmail.com](mailto:viatormelissa@gmail.com).

**Parish Records and Archives** Since we are now a new parish, all of the Sacramental Records including: Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Weddings, Funerals, Mass intentions, bulletins, financial records, and other historical items from the three former parishes of St. Bede, St. Charles Lwanga, and St. James, are now located at the Parish Records and Archives Center in the West End. When inquiring about a sacrament one has received at one of the former parishes, you will need now to call the Archives Office at 412.456.3158 or e-mail at [archives@diopitt.org](mailto:archives@diopitt.org)

**Parish Improvements** The Holy Rosary Rectory roof has been repaired. New shingles and slates have been installed.

Jake Luffy Masonry continues to repair the sidewalks and steps around the St. Bede Campus.

New office furniture has been delivered at the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Office. Updated internet, cable and phone lines will be installed in the next few weeks at all three rectories and will eventually all be connected to one phone system. We appreciate your patience during this transition.

**Are You Registered?** If you are attending Mass at St. Mary Magdalene on a regular basis and are not officially registered, please call Terri Price at the office at 412.661.7222. Every Catholic needs a place to call home and be officially registered at a parish.

If one is asked to be a Godparent for a Baptism or Confirmation Sponsor, they need to obtain a "Sponsor Letter" (Letter of Recommendation) from their Pastor. If one is not a registered parishioner, then we are unable to issue a sponsor letter.

**Congratulations** to **Thomas Jamison McCrady Jr.** and **Catherine Staley McCrady** who made their Profession of Faith last weekend!

**Happy Birthday** to our Director of Music Ministries, **Jennifer Gorske**, who celebrated her birthday this past Monday, January 20!

**Something to Think About...**

*One kind word can warm three winter months.*

Japanese Proverb

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor  
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